

SCS SB 237 -- FISHING CONTESTS

SPONSOR: Russell (Luetkemeyer)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Tourism and Cultural Affairs by a vote of 18 to 0.

This substitute allows persons or corporations to sponsor or conduct a fishing contest on any lake in Missouri without obtaining authorization or approval from the Department of Conservation if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The contest is part of a multi-state fishing contest;
- (2) There is only one tagged fish per lake with a value of less than \$1 million;
- (3) The fish is tagged by the sponsor in the presence of a representative from the department;
- (4) There is no fee or consideration required to enter the contest;
- (5) Participants must have a fishing license; and
- (6) The contest will last no more than 30 days.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the substitute will allow corporations to sponsor fishing contests in Missouri. These contests would encourage fishing in Missouri and would not cost the state any money because the prize money is paid for by the sponsors of the contests. Also, these contests would bring tourism dollars to Missouri because people participating in these contests will rent boats, stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, buy fishing gear, and obtain fishing licenses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Luetkemeyer; and Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst